

REMARKS

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the allowance of claims 1-8, 12-34, 38-44. Claims 1-44 remain for consideration in this application.

Rejections Apparently Relying on 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

Applicant notes that certain references used in support of rejections rely on 35 U.S.C. § 102(e). In responding to the rejections, Applicant does not admit that the references are prior art and Applicant specifically reserves the right to swear behind any such references at a future date. Applicant further notes that the changes made to 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) should apply to this application, as all of its apparent filing dates are after November 29, 2000, and as it does not appear to rely on a PCT application. However, it does have a U.S. filing date of July 18, 2001, and as such would appear on its face to be potential 102(e) art.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 9 and 35 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Kono (U.S. Pub. U. S. Patent No. 2002/0110041). Applicant traverses this rejection.

The “mode register” in block 8 of Kono is described only with respect to its function “for retaining the operation mode recognized in the control circuit” (paragraph [0059]). Applicant can find no mention of the address signal routing a selected address to either the row or bank address decoder “in response to data stored in the mode register” as is recited in claims 9 and 35. The cited paragraphs ([0061] and [0062]) of Kono do not teach routing a selected one of the plurality of address input connections in response to data stored in the mode register. Applicant respectfully submits that since Kono does not teach all the elements of claims 9 and 35, those claims are allowable. Claims 10-11 and 36-37 depend from and further define one of patentably distinct claims 9 or 25, and are also believed allowable.

CONCLUSION

If the Examiner has any questions or concerns regarding this application, please contact the undersigned at (612) 312-2203.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 20 Jun 2005



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